

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01  
OMB-01 NEAE-00 /075 W  
-----080877 201518Z /44

O 201425Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4252

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EINV MO US  
SUBJECT: LAND EXPROPRIATION CASES: A STATUS REPORT AND  
THOUGHTS FOR FURTHER ACTION

REF: 77 STATE 312959

1. DEPARTMENT'S OM ARRIVED JUST AS EMBASSY HAD BEEN  
ALERTED THAT MFA WAS RESPONDING FORMALLY ON LAND  
EXPROPRIATION CASES.
2. MFA'S NOTE TURNED UP THREE WEEK LATER. WHILE IT  
IDENTIFIED ONE CASE THAT WAS APPARENTLY SOLVED AND EXPRESSED  
WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH USG ON SEVERAL EXPROPRIATIONS  
INVOLVING VOA PROPERTIES IN TANGIER, IT CONCLUDED THAT  
REMAINING BULK OF CLAIMANT CASES WERE STILL UNDER STUDY.  
BARONESS PELLENC'S EXPROPRIATED PROPERTY FALLS IN LATTER  
CATEGORY.
3. EMBASSY INVESTIGATED CASE THAT GOM CLAIMED WAS SETTLED,  
RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM FORMER AMERICAN OWNER OF  
SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION, AND SUBMITTED NOTE OF REPLY TO MFA

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CONFIRMING. IN ADDITION, NOTE INFORMED MFA THAT WE WERE  
ADVISING WASHINGTON THAT GOM HAD NOW EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS  
TO NEGOTIATE WITH USG ON VOA PROPERTIES AND REMINDED GOM OF  
NEED FOR URGENCY IN RESOLVING REMAINING CLAIMS. COPIES OF  
GOM NOTE AND EMBASSY'S RESPONSE POUCHED TO NEA/AFN.

4. AMBASSADOR ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR

TO U.S. ALI BENGELLOUN'S PRESENCE HERE EARLIER THIS MONTH TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF FORTHCOMING RESPONSE IN GOM'S LATEST NOTE, AND TO URGE HIM TO SPEAK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. HE AGREED PROBLEM NEEDED RAPID SOLUTION AND SAID HE WOULD IMPRESS THIS ON FOREIGN MINISTER.

5. QUERIED JANUARY 18 ABOUT STATUS OF GOM'S HANDLING OF SITUATION, MFA DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BELKORA DESCRIBED MFA'S NOTE (CITED PARA 2 ABOVE) AS A FIRST STEP. EMBASSY'S RESPONSE WOULD ENABLE QUOTE EASIER UNQUOTE CASES, SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING USG PROPERTIES, TO BE RESOLVED FIRST, TO BE FOLLOWED BY TACKLING OF REMAINING CASES. WHEN INFORMED OF UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN MOORHEAD AND PELLENC ATTORNEY (REFTEL), BELKORA STATED THAT IF ATTORNEY WAS IMPATIENT, HE COULD COME TO RABAT AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS HIS CLIENT'S CLAIMS. BELKORA CAUTIONED THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE ATTORNEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE TERMS WHICH WOULD BE OFFERED AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER. AT SAME TIME, HE STRESSED GOM'S DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH U.S. CLAIMS IN A STEP-BY-STEP MANNER, INASMUCH AS GOM DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERT PERSONNEL TO HANDLE ALL EIGHT CASES AT ONE TIME. (COMMENT. THIS UMPTEENTH VARIATION ON A THEME HAS ONLY ONE MAJOR NEW ELEMENT, THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE DOSSIER OF SEVERAL PLOTS OF LANDS USED BY VOA. THIS MAY POSSIBLY BE A PRETEXT TO USE VOA PRESENCE IN MOROCCO AS A BARGAINING CHIP.)  
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6. IN VIEW OF GOM'S LONGSTANDING DILATORY HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT APPRISE ALI BENGELLOUN OF INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF GOM INACTION.

7. ONLY FIRM USG INTERVENTION WILL PERSUADE THE GOM THAT PROMPT ACTION IS NECESSARY. UNLESS WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH FIRM TIME LIMITS AND TO IDENTIFY TO GOM SPECIFIC COSTS OF INACTION, CHANCES OF COMPENSATION FOR U.S. CLAIMANTS IN NEAR FUTURE ARE DIM, FOR ADDITIONAL EXHORTATORY DEMARCHES WILL ONLY FURTHER ERODE CREDIBILITY OF OUR ASSERTIONS OF INTEREST IN FAIR AND PROMPT PAYMENT. WE ARE AWARE THAT A DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED WILL REQUIRE WEIGHING THE POSSIBLE EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ACTING ON A U.S. INTEREST THAT HAS BEEN INFRINGED.

8. EMBASSY RESPECTFULLY SUGGESTS THAT AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN IS THE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL FOR A FULL REVIEW OF THE BIDDING WITH THE GOM. OUR REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN MOORHEAD DESCRIBES STATE OF PLAY AS REFLECTED IN FOREGOING PARAS, AND SUGGESTS THAT HE CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW

USG PLANS TO PROCEED ON LAND CASES ISSUE.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAND, CLAIMS, LAND NATIONALIZATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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